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1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2 USDA/CSREES LISTENING SESSION

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LANCASTER HOST RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

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LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

7

JULY 12, 2001

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8:30 a.m.

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JAMES SPURLING - ACTING CHAIRMAN

14

PHILIP SCHWAB

15

MARY HUMPHREYS

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MR. SPURLING: Good morning everyone.

3 My name is Jim Spurling, and I'm the Assistant

4 Administrator for the Cooperative State Research
Education,

5 and Extension Service, primarily with the responsibility
6 of public liaison.

7 I bring greetings to you from Dr. Colien
8 Hefferan, our Administrator. I might mention at
9 this very moment, perhaps right now, our new
10 Under Secretary of Research, Education and Economics,
11 is testifying before the United States Senate.

12 Dr. Joseph Jen is testifying this morning. We
13 expect probably his swearing in to be within the
14 next two weeks. So our new leaders of the mission
15 will be in the office by the end of the month, we
16 hope.

17 I talked to him yesterday; he was very
18 supportive of these kind of listening sessions.
19 This is the first of four listening sessions
20 that we are planning to have.

21 Dr. Hefferan, along with staff, early on this
22 year, decided that to meet our requirements to
23 listen to our customers, our stakeholders and our
24 partners, as Congress has ordered, that it was
25 important that we try to get to as many geographic

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1 areas as we possibly could, and listen to as many
2 customers, and partners as we could.

3 This is the first of four. We will be in
4 Minneapolis at the end of this month and we are
5 proposing two additional listening sessions for
6 later this year, and they're not set yet, so the way
7 things have been going, I'm not going mention those
8 just yet.

9 We are here primarily to listen, not to
10 present a program of any kind. We want to listen to
11 you to find out the positives and negatives of our
12 program and the positives and negatives of how we
13 are administering those programs that we have charge
14 of.

15 We are hopeful that through these listening
16 sessions we can reach solutions to those problems,
17 whether they be administratively or legislatively,
18 and to expand on the positives that we now have.

19 We need to identify the needs of the
20 agricultural community or perhaps programs that are
21 no longer meeting those needs. That's why we're
22 leaving it up to you to try to determine.

23 Our mission is, of course, advanced knowledge
24 for the agricultural environment in human health
25 while being in communities, and we're trying to

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1 convince a lot of people that publicly supported
2 research education and Extension is absolutely,
3 unequivocally essential if we are going to achieve
4 the goals in the agriculture and the environment in
5 human health and well-being that everyone in this
6 country wants.

7 Right now I'm going to introduce Dr. Philip
8 Schwab. He is kind of the brainstorming person that
9 came up with the idea of doing these listening
10 sessions, and I'm going to let him better explain
11 the details of what we are trying to actually get
12 fulfilled.

13 DR. SCHWAB: Thank you very much, and
14 thank you all for coming. I know it's short notice
15 and it is a busy season for a lot of folks in
16 agriculture and for families, and I really
17 appreciate those of you who took the time to come up
18 today.

19 I'd like to begin by introducing some of our
20 other staff from Washington who are here today.

21 First of all, Mary Humphreys is our Logistics
22 Coordinator. She will take your name and
23 information at registration to which you so kindly
24 provided.

25 And she's been responsible for all of the

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1 logistics here.

2 Starting on my right, we have Dr. Larry
3 Biles, who is our National Program Leader for
4 Forestry and Natural Resources.

5 We have Dr. Eric Norland who is on our staff
6 temporarily on loan from Ohio State Extension, and
7 also in the forestry and natural resources area.

8 We have Dr. David Holder with us from our
9 Economics and Community Systems Branch, and he is an
10 expert in rural economics and rural development.

11 We have Dr. Wells Willis, who is on our
12 Families, 4-H and Nutrition staff and she is
13 responsible for nutrition education programs.

14 And finally Dr. Maurice Dorsey , who is our
15 National Program Leader for Public Policy. And all
16 of these folks and myself and Jim are here to
17 interact with you and other folks who attend the
18 meeting today, and hear your comments about our
19 programs. Hear about the challenges that you all
20 are facing in the activities that you conduct,
21 either on farm or through Extension or research or
22 educational programs that you might be involved
23 with.

24 So this morning we have planned a morning of
25 listening to folks. We have about a dozen folks

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1 signed up to speak throughout the morning and some
2 of them are here and some of them are not. So we
3 are going to reserve the morning for public comments
4 as it comes.

5 Feel free to make your statement and if you
6 need to -- if you need to leave, that is fine. If
7 you would like to stay and hear who else has come or
8 engage in conversations with other attendees, that
9 would be fine as well.

10 The afternoon we had planned for a series of
11 break-out sessions where we could really do a more
12 interactive discussion amongst the attendees and dig
13 deep into some of the issues and challenges,
14 barriers, that are facing our programs and also
15 learn about some of the things that are successful
16 and could be translated to other areas of the
17 country.

18 And we will evaluate how many folks are left
19 at the time of the lunch break and decide how we
20 want to proceed on the break-out sessions from
21 there. We may have one or two break-out sessions
22 rather than the planned six. We will just combine
23 some of the special interest groups together and
24 then after the break-out groups have had a chance to
25 talk for awhile, we will come back and have a

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1 wrap-up session so everybody can discuss what they
2 might have talked about in their break-out sessions.

3 Let me just go over some of the items that we
4 were really interested in in terms of the topics
5 that we would like to have discussed. We truly are
6 looking for ways that we can make our programs more
7 open and responsive to the needs of the agriculture
8 and food science community, so we are looking for
9 ways of assessing what those needs are.

10 How can we do a better job of assessing what
11 those needs are? I.e. are the listening sessions
12 effective? We request comments on our solicitations
13 for Grant approval; is that the way of doing it? Is
14 there a more effective way that we can do those
15 types of activities. Are the mechanisms that we
16 are currently using effective in translating
17 research education and Extension down to the
18 producer community? Are farmers, are food
19 processors, are marketers getting the information
20 that they need from our programs in order to meet
21 the challenges of today's agriculture and food
22 systems economy?

23 How can we better target our programs to meet
24 the needs of rural development? How can we use them
25 to revitalize rural communities? That is an

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1 important thing that is getting a lot of attention
2 in the Congress and in the Department of Agriculture
3 these days.

4 And finally, what can we do to insure that
5 our programs are meeting the needs for training
6 future agricultural scientists, educators
7 and Extension agents. That is also something that
8 is gathering a lot of attention in Washington as we
9 look toward an aging population and needing to have
10 new blood in the system so to speak.

11 So there are a lot of challenges that are out
12 there today, and again I really appreciate those of
13 you who are here today to talk about these things.

14 I think we are going to start off with Jim is
15 going to talk a little bit about the situation
16 regarding the Farm Bill. I know some of you are
17 very interested in the Farm Bill and what that means
18 for research education and Extension Programs
19 nationwide, so we'll start off with a brief
20 discussion of that and then move on to public
21 testimony.

22 MR. SPURLING: Phil's background comes
23 from the Senate and my background is from the House
24 of Representatives.

25 The House Agriculture Committee spent most of

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1 last year doing field training all around the
2 country with teachers, so on and so forth. They
3 have been holding hearings most of this year on each
4 of the titles of the Farm Bill. The Chairman
5 planned or at least announced very clearly that he
6 planned to have the Farm Bill, even though it's not
7 due until next year, ready for Floor action by the
8 end of July. I don't think they're going to mark it
9 up or in other words finish the Committee's action
10 before July, but they're going to have it as ready
11 as they can, so after coming back after the full
12 month of August recess, that they can put the final
13 touches to it and actually bring a new Farm Bill to
14 the floor this fall.

15 Now, you know, if I could predict that's
16 definitely going to happen, I would make a lot of
17 money, but that is the Committee's intention at this
18 time. We really didn't take it too seriously,
19 because the Senate was not taking it too seriously,
20 but I think that has changed.

21 That's pretty much the status right now.

22 Dr. Hefferan testified before the Committee
23 on behalf of Research, Education, and Economics back
24 on June 23 I believe it was and they have basically
25 finished most of the titles in the House. They are

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1 just in the process of putting the bill together and
2 I'll tell you where the Senate is. The activity has
3 actually begun to pick up in action.

4 DR. SCHWAB: The Senate recently, as
5 you know, underwent a reorganization with the
6 democrats taking nominal control of the action of
7 the floor and of the committees and this delayed
8 some of the activity that normally would happen at
9 this time and that is why our nominees for
10 Under Secretary positions have not been confirmed
11 yet. But now that the Senate has been reorganized,
12 nominees are moving forward, and the Senate
13 Committee is also beginning to hold hearings on
14 various titles of the Farm Bill, following the
15 confirmation hearings of Dr. Jen, and our Deputy
16 Secretary Mr. Jim Mosley today. The Senate
17 Committee plans to hold a hearing on commodity
18 programs in general.

19 So the Senate is moving along. The Farm Bill
20 is moving along, and like Jim said, if any of us
21 knew how this process was going to work its way out,
22 we could make a lot of money predicting, and we
23 could probably plan vacations and things like that
24 with more certainty. But we don't, so we are
25 pursuing our activities, and the work goes on as

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1 usual in Washington.

2 So with that, what I will do now is move on
3 to the presentations that folks have planned to make
4 today. And how we'll handle this, we originally
5 said five minutes, but as you can see we aren't
6 really overflowing with time commitments today, so
7 if you can't stick to five minutes, take your time.
8 Feel free to speak as you would like and we will
9 move you on after a half an hour -- no. But feel
10 free to make your comments.

11 Please identify yourself and your
12 organization so that our recorder can adequately and
13 accurately describe who you are in the transcript.

14 Our plan for the transcripts is that it will
15 be publicly available in the agency and we will put
16 the transcript on our website so that folks from
17 around the country can read the comments that you
18 have given to us here today.

19 What we will do is go down the list of the
20 folks that have signed up and take them in the order
21 that folks have signed up. I know that we'll
22 probably run through pretty quickly, but that's
23 fine.

24 So the first person on the list is June Reed.
25 Is June here?

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1 (No response)

2 DR. SCHWAB: We'll cycle back as we
3 go.

4 The second person on the list is Joe Dudick.

5 MR. DUDICK: My name is Joe Dudick. I
6 serve on the County Cooperative Extension Board
7 here in Pennsylvania, but I'm appearing here today
8 as a private citizen and I'd want to emphasize that
9 I'm representing my opinions and do not necessarily
10 represent those of my County Extension Board or the
11 Extension Program here in Pennsylvania.

12 In my professional life, over more than
13 twenty years with Cooperative rural education and
14 other rural organizations, I've had an opportunity
15 to travel around the country, but the perspective
16 that I'm going to provide today is really as a
17 Pennsylvania perspective, but also based on
18 discussions and information and observations that I
19 have made around the country and discussions that
20 I've had with other rural advocates around the
21 country.

22 Let me say at the very beginning that while
23 some of the things I may say might be viewed as
24 critical or negative, I very strongly believe that
25 Cooperative Extension is one of the handful of

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1 initiatives over the last century which has
2 revolutionized life for the better for rural
3 America. The Cooperative education, the rural
4 delivery of the noon meal; improvements in
5 transportation at the beginning of the 20th century.
6 Cooperative Extension I believe stands as one of the
7 pillars of improving the quality of life for people
8 in rural America, for improving productivity of
9 farms and for providing other economic and social
10 opportunities for people in rural America. So I
11 come from that perspective.

12 I'm a believer in Extension and the comments
13 I want to make today are intended to hopefully make
14 the program better and truer to its mission.

15 Let me also say that I am proud to be
16 affiliated with the Cooperative Extension Program
17 here in Pennsylvania. We have many, many, many
18 dedicated agents and administrators who I think are
19 dedicated to the principles of the Extension
20 program, and really every person in the state of
21 Pennsylvania I think really owes a debt of gratitude
22 to our Extension program here in Pennsylvania. So
23 I'm proud to be affiliated with it.

24 Also, I think it's important to recognize the
25 very close relationship of the Extension program

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1 with the Land-Grant University, which are hosts for
2 the program, and the interests and priorities of the
3 two different entities really are intertwined, and
4 sometimes I think it's important to realize we have
5 to look at the interest in, and the potential
6 changes that need to be made in the system in order
7 to understand how we can maximize the benefit of
8 Extension.

9 With all that out of the way, I have four
10 points that I would like to make and then a few
11 minor comments.

12 First, I believe the principal focus of
13 Extension must first, last and always be on the
14 agent in the field; as a partner to rural
15 communities they serve.

16 As I have traveled around the country over
17 the last 20 years, I increasingly get the feeling
18 from talking to people and observing things, that
19 that is not always the case in all places. And I
20 know in talking to some of the older Extension
21 agents around the country, that feeling is
22 especially heartfelt.

23 Now, I'm sure we all feel that things aren't
24 as good as they use to be in the good old days, but
25 I think we constantly need to come back to the point

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1 of remembering why this program is established, and
2 it was to provide the local agent in the field with
3 the knowledge, the research, the educational
4 materials that he or she can use to respond to the
5 needs of farmers and other rural people in the area
6 they had been assigned to.

7 The second point, and it's just as important,
8 is that we really must do everything that we can to
9 make sure the Extension Program is grassroots
10 driven. While we need to depend on the knowledge
11 and experience of administrators like you folks from
12 Washington or our State Cooperative Extension
13 leaders around the country, and that will provide a
14 lot of direction for the program, we must empower
15 the County Extension Board, the substate regional
16 Board, the State Board to really provide much of the
17 direction to this program. It cannot be a top-down
18 program.

19 The third point is that I think we need to
20 protect against what I'll call mission creek. A
21 hundred years ago rural America was a very different
22 place than it is today. A hundred years ago the
23 local Extension agent was probably in most places,
24 one of the few educated people to begin with, but
25 definitely one of the few people who had a

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1 connection to the knowledge and research and
2 resources that went outside of the local community.
3 And as a result, the Extension agent was called upon
4 to do a large number of things, focused on
5 agriculture, but moving out to many other areas.

6 Over the last hundred years we have had many
7 new government agencies established, organizations
8 established, that do a lot of the things that the
9 Extension agent was expected to do a hundred years
10 ago.

11 So I think we need, as we allocate resources
12 and look at the plans at work, we need to recognize
13 that is the case, and we need to protect against
14 duplication, and we must seek out the unique
15 additions that Extension can provide to the
16 activities of others.

17 There are certain areas still where Extension
18 does and should and must have the exclusive purview.
19 Where the Extension Service must be in the lead.
20 But there are many other areas where we do have
21 Extension programming where we should be in a
22 supportive role and try to identify how we can add
23 value, rather than trying to duplicate or run a
24 parallel effort.

25 Fourth: I think, and this gets back to one

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1 of the points you made in your opening comments, I
2 think we have to be very serious about providing
3 independent and objective analysis of the work of
4 the Extension Program.

5 Now we have all kinds of evaluation tools and
6 all that kind of stuff, but I think too often, as
7 with many organizations, I'm not singling out
8 Extension here, the evaluation process is designed
9 to return the results that we want to hear and see.
10 So I think it's important as much as we can, to
11 depend on outside evaluators, and this goes back to
12 my previous point about being grassroots driven.

13 The people who are in the best place to
14 decide how well the Extension Program is doing in
15 service, are the people who are the beneficiaries of
16 that service, or who could be the beneficiaries. We
17 need to depend on their judgments.

18 Let me just throw out what I'm sure everybody
19 would think is a very radical concept. I think
20 there needs to be some kind of a certification and
21 recertification process for the host institutions
22 for Extension programs. It shouldn't be a once and
23 done effort.

24 Now I recognize that the host institutions
25 have made tremendous investments in human and other

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1 infrastructures to support the Extension program, but
2 undergoing some kind of a recertification every say
3 10 years, 20 years, whatever, where everything is
4 opened up and laid out on the table and a
5 determination made as to whether or not that
6 institution is still providing service the way it
7 should be, I think that would be beneficial.

8 Those are my four philosophical suggestions.

9 Let me say one last thing: I think Extension
10 needs to do a better job of using some of the
11 technology we have available to us. This especially
12 I think is in the areas of publications and program
13 delivery, and then also in distance education. So
14 the case of publication, while we will always, I'm
15 sure, need actual printed publications, the
16 opportunity to deliver publications online makes an
17 awful lot of sense. It's cost effective. People
18 can get what they want, when they want it, and I
19 think that also creates a need for you at the
20 national level, to look at how we can better
21 integrate the delivery of these kind of publications
22 and programs to people.

23 It doesn't make sense for the Extension
24 program in North Dakota to have a publication on
25 growing tomatoes in North Dakota, and for the

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1 Extension service in South Dakota, to have its own
2 publication.

3 Now, I'm sure growing tomatoes in North
4 Dakota varies from Pennsylvania or Texas, so we
5 might need some regional variance of these things,
6 but to identify how we can standardize publications,
7 put them on the internet so that everybody
8 throughout the country has an opportunity to access
9 them, I think makes sense.

10 Just a few weeks ago I was doing some
11 research for a project and I did look at many
12 Extension websites and I found that in some cases,
13 the Extension Service in those particular states
14 were using their website as an advertising vehicle
15 to sell publications or programs.

16 In other states, the Extension Service had
17 put a huge number of publications online so that
18 people could download them. I think that's the way
19 we need to go.

20 The same is the case with programs. To the
21 extent that we can put program material, lectures,
22 other things of that sort on the internet so that
23 people around the country can download that
24 information, use it as they need it at the
25 convenience of them, that makes sense. And here

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1 again, to the extent that we can form regional or
2 national consortiums, whereby we divi up if you will,
3 responsibilities for various types of programs among
4 different institutions, rather than not having huge
5 amounts of duplication in those programs, I think
6 that makes sense.

7 And those same principles apply to distance
8 education. Instead of every land grant and every
9 Extension program having its own individual program
10 on a particular subject, there needs to be a greater
11 effort to form regional and national consortia; to
12 develop those programs and to broadly make those
13 programs bigger.

14 Let me just say in conclusion, I appreciate
15 the opportunity to appear before you, and I
16 appreciate the fact that you have come out to see us
17 and you will be having other meetings and obviously
18 appreciate the fact that Congress suggested that
19 this happen, and hope you do more of it. That you
20 do it in many more places; that you have more lead
21 time, publicize it more, so that more interested
22 citizens can participate.

23 Thank you for your efforts, and thank you for
24 coming.

25 MR. SPURLING: Thank you very much.

1 Again, thank you very much and the criticism
2 about not getting enough lead time on this is well
3 taken. Not as an excuse, but I will explain.

4 We are in the process of transition. It's
5 very hard to get clearance to put in federal
6 register notices and such things, especially when
7 there is a hold on those type of things, which
8 include Executive Orders. So it was like pulling
9 teeth. I said all I want to do is have a meeting.
10 I'm not changing anything. That's a brief
11 explanation.

12 Next we have Hugh Canham.

13 MR. CANHAM: Good morning. Like the
14 other speakers, I appreciate the opportunity to
15 provide comments to you at this hearing on the
16 CSREES programs.

17 I have interacted with CSREES for many years
18 in many different capacities. I served for two
19 years on the Research Review Panels for the
20 Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems
21 Panels, the IFAFS panels.

22 In 1994 I got a higher education challenge
23 grant from CSRS to do some program development at
24 Syracuse. By the way, I am speaking today as
25 Professor of Forest and Resource Economics at the

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1 State University of New York, College of
2 Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, and
3 I am also speaking as a member of the Board of
4 Directors of the New York Forest Owners Association,
5 which represents over 2000 private forest owners in
6 New York State.

7 I have also worked with McIntire-Stennis
8 Research Grants. I've been on review panels for
9 them and had some of the grants, and I've also been
10 involved in regional Hatch Act Programs.

11 One of the things about the programs of CSRS
12 -- CSREES; sorry, the new name there -- are unique
13 in that they address real applied problems and
14 issues. For example, the IFAFS Program stimulates
15 research into a lot of cutting edge issues.

16 One of the interesting things about that
17 program is the integration of the research, teaching
18 and Extension. That's a very strong point of that
19 program, and kind of a unique one, and it's unlike
20 many programs that tend to stress basic research in
21 the initiative for future agricultural food systems.
22 The IFAFS, the emphasis is on applied problems that
23 directly impact ownership and management of small
24 and average sized land parcels and impact rural
25 communities.

1 The topics that have been addressed through
2 some of those proposals have really been some of
3 the most important issues that have been going on in
4 the country today. Riparian Management, fight over
5 mediation of contaminated soils, establishing
6 demonstration forest, educate forest owners, river
7 basin level studies and flood studies of economic
8 impact and ecological sustainability.

9 I think one of the limitations of that
10 program is the funding for it in relationship to the
11 number of very, very good projects that have come
12 in. There are very good projects that go up to four
13 million dollars and expand over a five year time
14 period, and that's good, because you can get a
15 project going and keep it going for a long time,
16 but it also costs more to do that, and there is a
17 limitation on the funding.

18 The Higher Education Challenge Grants Program
19 has been most useful. I'd like to mention what
20 happened in my particular case. I organized the
21 first nationwide conference on education for forest
22 resources in the 21st century. We sponsored this in
23 Syracuse in 1994, put together a national advisory
24 team and we developed a three day conference and it
25 was kind of unique in that we did have some people

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1 speaking on how they would improve teaching, but, we
2 had major segments devoted to the teachers
3 presenting papers on their successes and failures,
4 so it wasn't a research conference; it was one where
5 people were talking about what had been their
6 successes and failures in the classrooms in teaching
7 natural resources.

8 From that beginning, supported by the Higher
9 Education Challenge Grants Program in CSREES, there
10 are now biannual conferences. We had one at Penn
11 State in 1996; we had one at Utah State in 1998. We
12 had one in Missouri University in 2000, and next
13 year there will be one at North Carolina State.

14 So this initial monies from CSRS, have been
15 multiplied many, many times over, because these
16 subsequent conferences have not had a CSREES Grant.
17 But if we didn't have that first one, these other
18 ones wouldn't have gotten started.

19 Another activity at CSREES, that I found to
20 be very useful I think was the review of the
21 research teaching Extension programs at various
22 Universities. I was a member of the staff to review
23 the programs at Michigan State, their forestry
24 programs, and I know we worked day and night for a
25 week and reviewed things beforehand and the

1 University was very appreciative of the report.

2 The regional Hatch Act Project is another
3 activity of CSREES, and I was involved in a multi-
4 state project in the northeast on the use of wood
5 fuel.

6 Now, I am at the State University of New
7 York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry
8 in Syracuse, which is the location of the accredited
9 Forestry Program in New York State. But we are not
10 a Land-Grant University. So therefore I do not have
11 access to Hatch Act monies. So my participation in
12 that project came in with other monies that we made
13 available through other funding sources we had. The
14 Hatch Act monies in New York State, go to Cornell,
15 and we work cooperatively with them.

16 Here is another example where some of the
17 monies through CSREES Programs got multiplied beyond
18 that initial part.

19 And finally the McIntire-Stennis Program for
20 New York State, for each of the last five years, we
21 have received about \$650,000. \$490,000 of that goes to
22 Syracuse; \$160,000 to Cornell. And we used that at
23 Syracuse to directly fund research projects. And
24 although the forestry issues have been increasing in
25 importance and magnitude, there has been no increase

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1 in the funding there, and this of course is not
2 unique to New York or the northeast. It's extending
3 across the country.

4 So we can use more funding for that.

5 Very, very briefly, some of the issues that
6 we face in New York, in forestry and land
7 management, are things like increases in property
8 taxes, subdivision of forests into small parcels,
9 the ignorance of many private forest owners as to
10 what is good forest management and principals, and
11 practices; costs of doing business. Energy costs
12 particularly, and we look to increase program
13 support for more research and education in some
14 subjects like better technology for utilizing small
15 diameter roundwood. Uses of forest for fire based
16 products and bioengery products and crosscutting
17 manufacturing, alternatives to the EBALOR property
18 tax and effectiveness of different methods of
19 educating land owners, legislators and the general
20 public about forests.

21 In summary, and this is a small part of what
22 continued and increased support for CSREES programs
23 can do. These programs will return many times over
24 their direct financial cost. As America moves
25 toward a sustainable economy, it will move toward

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1 renewable natural resources.

2 Forests are a major component of that and many
3 of the benefits of forests and forestry are
4 non-market, watershed protection, wildlife habitat
5 and scenic beauty and improving these values is
6 another benefit of supporting the research and
7 Extension Programs supported by your service.

8 Thank you for listening. I'll be happy to
9 provide any further analyses and information you may
10 request.

11 Thank you. I have some copies. I'll
12 leave those with the reporter.

13 DR. SCHWAB: Thank you very much.

14 The next person on the list is Perry Clay.

15 (No response)

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I expect he'll be
17 here at 9:55.

18 DR. SCHWAB: Thank you. That's fine.

19 Someone who arrived this morning, who
20 is not on the list, Dr. Alfred Turgeon.

21 DR. TURGEON: Thank you and good
22 morning. I'm Alfred Turgeon, Professor of Turf
23 Grass Management, at Penn State University about two
24 and a half hours up the road from here. I also have
25 a cold, so please excuse my voice this morning.

1 I'm here actually to speak on behalf of the
2 Agricultural Telecommunications Program, which since
3 1998 has been actually administered by an
4 organization called ADEC. ADEC is the American
5 Distance Education Consortium, and this was money
6 that was passed through CSREES to ADEC for
7 administration.

8 And the program, despite the fact that the
9 resources have been extremely limited, has worked
10 extraordinarily well. I'd like to share that with
11 you in the hopes of gaining your support for
12 continued and expanded funding for this program.

13 In the early 1990's, when this farsighted
14 program was initiated, we also saw the introduction
15 of the World Wide Web. Now the internet had been
16 around a while, but the World Wide Web was new
17 really with the introduction of Mosaic, the first
18 web browser and that was followed shortly thereafter
19 with Netscape, and subsequently by other web
20 browsers.

21 Many people or some people including myself
22 in those early years, saw with this graphic
23 intensive version of the internet, an opportunity to
24 do instruction in a way that hadn't been done
25 previously. And when I started to get active in

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1 this about seven years ago, I looked around for
2 some models. I looked around for some ways that
3 people were effectively using this to engage
4 students in a working process. And I couldn't find
5 them and realized at that time we just had to
6 develop those models, so along with some colleagues,
7 we began trying things and learning as we went,
8 making lots of mistakes, redoing things over and
9 over again and joined on with other colleagues and
10 other institutions who were engaged in similar
11 pursuits, and as a consequence, when Penn State
12 initiated its World Campus in 1998, mine was the
13 very first course that was offered and I have been
14 teaching it and other courses and have had
15 colleagues develop similar courses in the turf grass
16 area. We have been teaching that for almost four
17 years.

18 We have students from all over the world in
19 well-organized courses. Students who otherwise would
20 not have the opportunity to formal education,
21 location bound or resource limited or whatever,
22 simply couldn't learn the way they can learn today
23 in a very sophisticated arena, because of the World
24 Wide Web, and because of the investment of resources
25 into people that had the desire to figure out how to

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1 teach effectively utilizing this media.

2 We made a lot of mistakes, but we made a lot
3 of progress, and much of the progress is due to the
4 investment of the growth of the food and
5 agricultural telecommunications programs, so that
6 people like me who earlier dedicated themselves to
7 achieving research objectives and have in more
8 recent years have been dedicating themselves to
9 achieve education objectives.

10 We need to develop higher effective ways of
11 reaching out to the student; developing highly
12 effective learning resources that students can
13 access at their own time and at own place and at
14 their own pace, and enhancing those resources and
15 accomplishing things that historically we could
16 never do in a classroom. In a classroom, as good as
17 it is face-to-face, you have to aim at the middle.
18 If you are highly effective as a teacher, you find
19 the middle and you address the needs of the majority
20 of the students in that classroom. Recognizing that
21 at the top, the brightest students are going to be
22 underwhelmed and the ones at the bottom are more
23 likely to be overwhelmed. That's the best we can do
24 at a face-to-face classroom discussion.

25 On the Web you can use a shotgun approach.

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1 You can develop resources that are flexibly arranged
2 in such a way that they meet the needs and they
3 challenge the best students and the not so good
4 students by the way you design those learning
5 resources, and you can organize students into groups
6 and you can engage them in problem solving processes
7 and you can monitor and guide through discussions
8 and interactions in ways that really help them to
9 think their way through complex problem solving.

10 They can really communicate their thoughts
11 and their solutions and the way to implement their
12 solution strategies in increasingly effective ways
13 by paying attention to the way they articulate
14 things, to the way they draw logical conclusions,
15 to the way they present their defensible arguments.

16 We have at our disposal today, the resource
17 that can dramatically revolutionize the way we can
18 do resident education, to the way we can to
19 Extension education, and a way to increase the way
20 we do distant education to reach out to students
21 from all over the world.

22 We need to develop -- to allocate more
23 resources to enterprising academics who want to
24 realize and contribute toward improvements that can
25 make the web far more efficacious as a learning

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1 platform and to enhance the quality and
2 effectiveness of educational programs not only
3 throughout the United States but throughout the world.

4 I do have some handouts that I would like to
5 distribute, to give you a little bit more
6 information about the kind of programs that have
7 been funded, and thank you very much for the
8 opportunity to present here today.

9 MR. SPURLING: Well, next on the list,
10 and I do understand we're running very good, is
11 James Shirk.

12 MR. SHIRK: Good morning ladies and
13 gentlemen. My name is James Shirk and I am the
14 Assistant Vice President for the PennAg Industries
15 Association and in that capacity I represent the
16 Poultry Industry in Pennsylvania. I am also a Board
17 member of the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension
18 and a ninth generation farmer on our family farm.

19 PennAg Industries is Pennsylvania's leading
20 agribusiness trade organization representing over
21 600 agri-businesses and thousands of agricultural
22 producers across our state. Our mission is to
23 create and maintain an effective, viable and
24 competitive environment for Pennsylvania
25 agribusiness to grow and prosper.

1 Extension and research are a vital component
2 to the success of agriculture in our state and I
3 appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today.

4 Foot and mouth disease, mad cow disease, West
5 Nile virus, plum pox virus, Avian influenza, and
6 drought.

7 As recently as the last few months, these are
8 just a few of the threats that can have an
9 incredible impact on agriculture and public health.
10 Simply wishing them to go away or hoping it doesn't
11 reach our doors is not enough. We are very
12 fortunate to have a premier leader in agriculture
13 research and Extension here in our home state to
14 help financiers and protect our livelihood. I
15 cannot emphasize enough the tremendous impact that
16 Extension has on the very survival of agriculture in
17 our Commonwealth.

18 Many people don't think of Pennsylvania as an
19 agricultural state. Yet we have one of the most
20 productive and certainly most diverse agricultural
21 economies in the United States, producing a combined
22 \$4.1 billion in cash receipts annually.

23 We are the fourth largest producers of milk
24 and fourth largest producer of eggs in the country.
25 We have the largest mushroom production in the

1 country. Pennsylvania has the largest hardwood
2 timbers production in the country. We have almost
3 \$1 billion in export sales each year. Our success
4 is a direct result of hard work guided by and
5 enhanced by research and Extension.

6 Pennsylvania is blessed with 59,000 farms
7 almost entirely composed of families continuing
8 their agricultural traditions. But traditions don't
9 pay the bills. Research is expensive and
10 impractical for farmers on their own and reading the
11 myriad of publications is simply impractical with a
12 business to run.

13 Extension is a credible, reliable and local
14 source of knowledge that farmers can access when
15 they need it most. By continuing to maintain funds
16 for Extension and research, the federal and state
17 governments are keeping our farmers not only viable,
18 but on the leading edge of agricultural production,
19 technology and management.

20 The challenge for farms and agri-businesses
21 to produce not only a profitable product but also a
22 safe food for consumers is both increasingly
23 difficult and more critical. Extension provides
24 crucial education on efficient ways to increase
25 production without sacrificing quality or safety.

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1 Let me give you a very specific example.

2 The Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance
3 Program, PEQAP, is considered to be the premier food
4 safety program for eggs in the country. The reason
5 this program was developed was a response to a series
6 of egg related food poisoning outbreaks in New York in
the

7 late 1980's and early 1990's. New York is our
8 largest market for eggs and thus very important to
9 our industry. The Department of Health in New York
10 was threatening to eliminate eggs produced in
11 Pennsylvania from their markets.

12 The resulting solution was a team of
13 industry, government and Extension which began
14 researching and implementing the first of its kind
15 Food Safety Program that started at the farms and
16 ended with the consumer. This program kept our
17 markets viable in New York and has since been lauded
18 by FDA and consumer action groups as the model for
19 safe food production in the United States.

20 Extension continues to have a very important
21 role in educating our producers in PEQAP and
22 researching ways to make the program better.

23 There are several additional initiatives that
24 we are intimately involved with currently where
25 Extension is a major part of protecting our

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1 industry. The first is the development of an
2 environmental certification program for producers to
3 recognize high standards of environmental
4 stewardship and to encourage others to meet those
5 standards.

6 Education is a vital part of the success of
7 this program and there could be no better partner
8 than our people in Extension. Not only do they
9 bring technical expertise to the table, but they
10 also add credibility to a skeptical public that is
11 very interested in the environmental impacts of our
12 farms.

13 A second major area specific to poultry but
14 also applicable to other industries, is the high
15 quality of Avian disease diagnosis and research.
16 Pennsylvania, although the sixth largest poultry
17 production state in the country, has no full-time
18 veterinarian in the industry to help with disease
19 diagnosis and prevention. We rely almost
20 exclusively on the team in Extension and our
21 universities for diagnostic services. This is a
22 unique situation, but also highlights the importance
23 of a well-funded Extension service.

24 Even with the primary emphasis on farming,
25 the role of Extension in our communities goes well

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1 beyond the scope of agriculture. One of the least
2 recognized impacts of Extension Programming lies
3 within their outreach to the less fortunate in
4 Pennsylvania and people bordering on poverty. They
5 teach basic food preparation and life skills to
6 people in our community with very few other
7 alternatives.

8 The true impact of Extension in our community
9 became clear to me at our county's annual Extension
10 dinner two years ago. After a great meal with many
11 things donated by our local producers, three women
12 who were participating in life skills training went
13 to the microphone to talk about how their lives have
14 been changed by Extension. With tears in their
15 eyes, each mother talked about the tough times in
16 their life and how when they needed someone to help
17 get them back on the right track. Extension was
18 there to teach the basic things we take for granted,
19 like how to fix a balanced meal for their kids.

20 The impact and value of having Extension well
21 funded to benefit people outside of the ag community
22 should not be underestimated.

23 Pennsylvania is very fortunate to have a
24 premier leader in agricultural research and
25 Extension here in our home state to help find

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1 answers and protect the livelihood of our
2 agricultural industry and the residents in our
3 community. We would hope that USDA will recognize
4 the far reaching impacts of Extension programming
5 and fund their efforts to the fullest amount
6 possible.

7 Thank you.

8 DR. SCHWAB: We're moving along. The
9 next person on the list is Alvena Kneasel.

10 MS. KNEASEL: Good morning. I
11 understand I have a lot of weight on my shoulders
12 this morning. I am the only person up here talking
13 about 4H.

14 I have to give you a little background about
15 myself. I worked in our local middle school. It is
16 in Lebanon County, which is right next door to
17 Lancaster County, for 26 years and I served as a 4H
18 leader for 27 years and I am still continuing with
19 my children.

20 Actually, I feel I married into Cooperative
21 Extension. My mother-in-law got me hooked on
22 Extension before we were married. She encouraged me
23 to can and freeze some things. I was a city kid and
24 through her I learned a lot. Believe you me. She
25 was a second generation and I think I'm the third

0040

1 generation, if I would have been her daughter.

2 Cooperative Extension has been such a large
3 part of my life. I really have a lot of passion for
4 what goes on with all the programs that they offer.

5 My husband and his brother still have a
6 family farm. It's down to 38 acres. We each took a
7 lot from that farm and it was small and my
8 father-in-law supplemented his income as a
9 plasterer, but the boys continued with farming so
10 they're both struggling and they're losing money,
11 you know, I guess like everyone else is right now.

12 It's been quite a learning experience for
13 this city kid to understand what goes on and all I
14 have to do is multiply the number say by four
15 hundred acres or whatever crop is being put out, to
16 understand what the investment is for our farmers
17 and what role that Cooperative Extension plays in
18 their lives to help them.

19 The reason that I got into 4H is my oldest
20 son joined and a year later my local county agent
21 who is a neighbor of mine, his wife encouraged me to
22 become a leader. In fact, she just passed away
23 about three weeks ago. I decided I would do it, and
24 I decided that I would like to teach food and
25 nutrition to kids. I wanted to make a difference in

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1 their young life, and 4H has really become a passion
2 for me.

3 I'm going to share with you some of the
4 things that I taught and you might think oh, that's
5 insignificant. But to me it's important because I
6 had such a varied curriculum to work with. I taught
7 young members how to make fun foods like ants on a
8 log or fruit cabobs on a toothpick. I taught
9 teenagers about foreign food, German, and we also
10 did Hawaiian food, the result being a luau at our
11 fairgrounds after we completed the project and we
12 had a ball with that.

13 In 1976 my home economist had put together a
14 Colonial foods project, and the kids even made
15 trenchers. I hope you know what a trencher is; if
16 you don't know what a trencher is, you have to look
17 it up in the dictionary. We did outdoor cooking and
18 throughout all of this we learned about food safety
19 and we're learning about nutrition with all the
20 projects that we used.

21 We also used the National Food Project of All
22 American Foods and Teens Entertain. These are all
23 good projects for our kids.

24 Another thing that happened in Pennsylvania a
25 number of years ago, I was the only lay person in a

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1 room, so I'm not inhibited by any of you, I don't
2 care how many degrees you have. I sat in a room of
3 a whole group of economists, and I learned to get
4 over it. And I sat on one of the food and nutrition
5 committees to develop a new curriculum. I've
6 learned a lot. How a curriculum is developed
7 and how we understand the growth of children. I felt
8 good about it. At first I was a little inhibited,
9 but I learned to get over it.

10 As a result of that, after the material was
11 put out, I pilot tested with some of my kids for
12 three years, so I really got the input from those
13 kids what they liked, what they disliked and
14 whatever. It was quite an experience.

15 You wonder what these children learn. All
16 you have to do is go to the local fair and look at
17 the prepared posters that they display, if they
18 understand the food pyramid or look at their food
19 displays that they put out or go to see their
20 presentations and listen to what they have to talk
21 about. Some of the young children usually talk three
22 to five minutes, but the older ones talk maybe
23 fifteen minutes and they tell you what they learned
24 about foods and nutrition.

25 But my being involved with the middle

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1 school, my passion on my job was the bread making.
2 That was when USDA was sending all that bread flour
3 through those years and I had the opportunity to
4 make bread in my big mixer. The fun part was not
5 being able to kneed it. I love kneading the bread
6 by hand but my mixer did it for me.

7 And I've also in the last 11 years have gone
8 to 4H leader forums and one of them that I attended
9 was up in Vermont, and at that meeting there was a
10 representative there that conducted a work shop
11 about bread making, and I took the opportunity to go
12 there. I learned that the King Arthur Baking Company
13 has a school curriculum where they go out and they
14 provide the instructors, they provide the flour.
15 Actually all the ingredients to make bread .

16 So I approached my principal at my school.
17 Asked him if I could do this in our middle school,
18 teaching our kids how to make bread. One of the
19 classes, and I also talked to the home economics
20 teacher in the middle school, she said I already
21 know about this one. I never did anything. I said
22 don't you think it's time. So we approached him and
23 he said to us, well, we aren't going to just stay
24 with one class, we are going to have the whole
25 school try it. We did this. And this happened

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1 maybe a year ago. I felt this is such a neat thing,
2 because this is teaching children a skill. These
3 kids were not necessarily 4H'ers. It was the whole
4 school. But the 4H Club that I established in the
5 school since I retired, was part of it.

6 Eleven hundred kids in one day were taught
7 how to make bread. Now you wonder how we did it.
8 They come in and they showed them. They give them
9 the recipes. They go home and over a weekend they
10 make bread. And I wasn't even here. I was in
11 Florida; my cousin was getting married and I was
12 going to her big wedding in Miami Beach. I came
13 back after doing all the paperwork and getting
14 everything organized, I came back Monday morning and
15 I started to collect bread.

16 I collected bread the whole week. I
17 collected 659 loaves out of the eleven hundred. The
18 idea from the company is you get two loaves of bread
19 with the ingredients you get. One loaf you keep for
20 your family and the other loaf you bring to school,
21 which I then delivered to the Ronald McDonald's
22 House. I took it to the Cancer Center that's up at
23 the Hershey Medical Center, and people were so
24 thrilled. I called them ahead of time.

25 I took some to the Rescue Mission and I also

0045

1 took some every day to our Noon Meal site where the
2 hungry in Lebanon County are being fed.

3 I had to put a limit on it. They can only
4 take four a day and they could come back the next
5 day and take four more.

6 These loaves of bread, believe it or not,
7 look like they came out of the bakery. Those kids
8 did a such a great job. There were three loaves out
9 of the 369 I would have thrown out.

10 It's teaching kids a skill. And we have had
11 such an impact with that whole thing. The
12 principal said to me just a couple months ago
13 Alvena, isn't it time to apply again to have our
14 kids make bread. I said I don't think so, it's not
15 been that long. Some of these kids are still here;
16 we have to wait until they move on. He wants to do
17 it again.

18 And the gentleman is not involved in
19 Extension; he's a gentleman that comes from the city
20 of Pittsburgh, and he was just excited about the
21 breadmaking.

22 One of the things that I did over the years
23 is as a Cooperative Extension volunteer, and being
24 my County Extension Director really got me involved
25 in it. I was a volunteer for PCEA and I can

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1 appreciate Joe's remarks. I know where he was coming
2 from.

3 I did have the opportunity for awhile to go
4 to Extension and Research in Washington four times
5 and I've also done it in Harrisburg.

6 One of the things that we always do, and I don't
7 know if you remember any of this, is that we took
8 tours of various counties in Pennsylvania, and I
9 remember visiting a church in North Philadelphia
10 where these low income families were being taught
11 and these kids were being taught about foods and
12 nutrition and they were so excited because we were
13 there, because they show what they were doing, and I
14 remember how excited they were about what they were
15 doing at that time.

16 The food safety issue is near and dear to my
17 heart, because fifteen, eighteen years ago, when I
18 was working, our school was closed down for three days,
19 because there was a food poisoning incident. We had over
20 a
21 hundred sick kids in the corridor and we were blamed
22 as a school cafeteria for making our kids sick. And if
23 that wasn't enough, the local newspaper made it
24 worse.

25 So food safety has been very, very dear to me
and one of the things that I have done in the last

0047

1 five years is I have been a volunteer, a coordinator
2 at our local fair and when we run our fair, we have
3 volunteers come into the kitchen, which is modern.
4 The kitchen is only about eight years old. New
5 kitchen, and when I say volunteers, I mean 4H'ers
6 and farm woman and RSVP volunteers who are under the
7 auspices of American Red Cross, and I get these
8 people lined up and one of the things that just
9 amazes me is how those 4H'ers work in that kitchen,
10 and those kids -- they do not dish out the hot food.
11 They pass it on to the customers. They do not
12 handle money. But one of the things we have to
13 stress with them is food safety; you must scrub your
14 hands. I've had children come from the barns and I had
15 to send them back and say you are not clean enough
16 to work in this kitchen. We have to be considerate
17 of the public that we are feeding.

18 They also know beforehand, because I have it
19 in my letter to all Clubs, you to have comply with
20 the state regulations about having your hair tied
21 back, putting a hairnet on and I walk in with my
22 hairnet on, so I don't have an issue with it, yet
23 they are very good about it. I do not like to get
24 hair in my food and I'm sure nobody else does.
25 Food safety is very, very important to me.

1 When I retired two years ago I started in the
2 middle school, thinking about kids at risk, and I've
3 had some and so I feel strongly about the money that
4 Extension needs to keep going for these kids. I have
5 kids from divorced families; I have a little girl,
6 and I picked up my paper this morning and I looked
7 at it and I saw that Phil Haven; I'm not sure if any
8 of you got to read any of it, but Phil Haven is a
9 local institution run by the Mennonites, but I have
10 a little girl in my club who is being monitored
11 constantly. She has a caseworker from Phil Haven
12 walking with her all day long. She comes to my club
13 meeting and the caseworker has to stay with her.
14 The reason is because her mother deserted her. She
15 is the middle child of three. The other two are
16 having problems also. This little girl in the club
17 meeting she will try to take over; she is very
18 aggressive. So this woman stays with her and I keep
19 thinking of how our society is today; how many
20 children like Shandel are out there.

21 Extension needs to do what we can do. Before
22 I even knew her I was asked by one of the aides that
23 I knew from working at the middle school about
24 having her in home ec and I said please do because I
25 will try to help her become a better person with

0049

1 what we do in 4H. So we had to make some
2 adjustments for Shandel.

3 I meet with these kids after school and it's
4 that time of day when they say children get into
5 trouble before their parents get home from work and
6 I had a great bunch of kids to work with for the
7 last three years.

8 Several years ago one of the school teachers
9 told me that one of the good things about 4H is that
10 we pick up what the schools do not. Where the
11 funding is cut; especially home economics and even
12 some of the ag things are being cut. She said you
13 pick up what they have cut back on. And I feel good
14 about what we're trying to do with our kids.

15 I'm in a modern kitchen in that school. We
16 have three full kitchens to work in, we also have
17 twenty-four sewing machines and this year for the
18 first time we were able to do two projects at one
19 time. We went back and forth; the Home Ec teacher
20 is a high school friend of mine. We graduated the
21 same year. She always wanted to have some club in
22 her room. Now we have it.

23 Things that I try to do with the 4H'ers, is
24 to try to get them to understand what the food
25 pyramid is all about. That is just common sense.

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1 They do know what's going on and I want to have them
2 understand what happens to their bodies when sugar
3 is too high. The consumption of sugar, too many
4 fats in the body and too many calories and not
5 enough exercise.

6 And the research, with the experiments in
7 these projects, they provide the knowledge that I
8 needed to make them understand at that age level.

9 also research has helped of course for them
10 to understand why hot foods need to be kept hot and
11 cold foods need to be kept cold. We're either going
12 to have the good bacteria or the bad bacteria. This
13 is all in these projects books.

14 Also how the digestive system works is
15 another one we did.

16 I think research is vital to get the message
17 correct for these kids.

18 Dealing with these children and their
19 problems in our society today, strengthens my
20 resolve to emphasize the need for more funds to
21 continue a wonderful program. No child should be
22 going hungry and no child should be in trouble with
23 the law in this country. 4H provides everything our
24 children need to be good citizens. Okay.

25 So much of my 4H thing.

0051

1 Now on a personal note. I have gone to
2 eleven 4H leadership training sessions in the north
3 east region in the United States. All the states, all the
4 different states the past 11 years. In fact, we are
5 coming here in 2004, so this was great for me to be
6 here today. Such a wealth of knowledge.

7 I have tried to verse myself to become a
8 better person. To stand up here and do what I have
9 done. I also took the Leadership Schools course
10 that Penn State offered years ago. It was by
11 invitation only. There were thirty of us in the
12 class, or I wouldn't be standing here today. I
13 would be standing down there shaking in my boots.

14 With the marriage I have done the 42 years of
15 canning and freezing of my own food. My husband
16 said we are going to have a garden. He said we are
17 going to know what we eat. So I don't buy much at a
18 grocery store; not more than I have to.

19 What happened? Eighteen yeas ago, I have an
20 anniversary coming up next week, actually nineteen
21 years ago, I was diagnosed with diabetes. Well, so
22 much for that.

23 Frank had an ice cream store; Uncle Charlie
24 ran that ice cream store. I loved that ice cream. he
25 took the Penn State course by the way on making good

0052

1 ice cream.

2 How I dealt with my diabetes. Well, for two
3 years I decided not to teach cooking to the kids. I
4 got into computers instead. I felt I had to get
5 myself under control with the diabetes and my home
6 Economist in my county was such an asset to me,
7 because she said you are doing your own canning and
8 freezing; do you know that you can can things and
9 not have to put it in sugar. -- oh, okay. What do
10 I do. Well, you dilute it with apple juice or you
11 dilute it with frozen pineapple juice and it will
12 taste like it just came off the tree, and that's
13 what I've been doing for the last 19 years.

14 It's been such an asset. And by the way,
15 when I got my report from the doctor, it was the
16 best ever. I couldn't believe it.

17 I also have a private well. I'm very
18 conscious of water quality. I have done the lobbying
19 in Washington. Water quality was always at the top
20 of the list and I'm very conscious of what Extension
21 has done with sections about protecting the private
22 well.

23 Below me at my house is a quarry and right
24 now the Susquehanna Valley is six and a half inches
25 shy of rainfall for the year. I've watched that

0053

1 quarry; I watch the sides of it, because I can see
2 when the water table is down and when that water
3 table is down, I know my well is really going down.

4 Four years ago we remodeled our kitchen and
5 finally put a dishwasher in. I run the dishwasher
6 about every two months. I don't want to waste the
7 water. It's just my husband and I. We wash the
8 dishes every day.

9 One of the things that I think that USDA has
10 done that I just thought was one of the neatest
11 things that has happened to the land-grant
12 Universities that we were involved with , was the
13 Poland Project.

14 I had the opportunity as we -- because I was
15 a volunteer, to go in the back door at Penn State. I
16 learned so many different things, but I learned so
17 much about Poland. Meeting people from Poland.
18 People that came through our county and I just
19 thought it was just a remarkable project, what they
20 did to help them go to their free market. I
21 understand that just last week I believe, some
22 4H'ers were here and they spent two weeks here in
23 Lancaster County and they have just gone home and I
24 shared that story about Poland and some of the
25 things that I learned, especially from one gentleman

0054

1 from Poland, when he was in our county. My Home
2 Economist said to me, Alvena, will you tell these
3 people about the auction your church has at the fair
4 grounds. Okay.

5 So I started talking about this. When I
6 mentioned the name of the church, this man's ears
7 just perked up. He said I know all about you and in
8 his broken English, and I said you do, I said well,
9 how do you know about me and our church and he said
10 I was in this country many years ago, the gentleman
11 I think at that time was seventy-six years old and
12 he said I helped to sort shoes down at that place,
13 down in Maryland. Oh, Church World Service. Yes.
14 He said have you ever been there, I said no, I
15 haven't. I wasn't at that time, but I have been
16 there since. I said I always wanted to get there,
17 and I just, it just blew me away, because I thought
18 how small the world is and he was so excited about
19 what happened, because he was there right after
20 World War II and I said to him, do you know that
21 there had been so many of us that had wondered
22 whether what we did as a nation to help Europe,
23 after World War II, we were wondering if anybody
24 ever got any of those supplies, those clothes and
25 those shoes and he said yes, we did. I came here, I

0055

1 had them mailed to my address, and I saw that they
2 got to my people.

3 The gentleman earlier mentioned Plum Pox
4 Virus, and I have that on my list and I thought he
5 took my thunder, but that's quite all right.

6 I was concerned by that too because the
7 outbreak is just over the road, less than 30 miles
8 away, and what's being done there, and the research
9 is really needed to find out about Plum Pox Virus
10 and how it could effect the fruit here or anywhere
11 in the country.

12 In closing I have to say this: The
13 individuals that I feel who work in Cooperative
14 Extension should be commended for their efforts. I
15 have seen people from the scientists at Penn State
16 because of going in that back door, to the county
17 agents doing their job and doing it very well. I felt
for

18 many, many years, that dollar for dollar, our
19 citizens in this country get a greater return for
20 their tax dollar for research and education and
21 Cooperative Extension Programs more than any other
22 offered in the federal budget. Instead of increased
23 based support we need increased support of all of
24 the programs that Cooperative Extension has to offer
25 to the agricultural community.

0056

1 MR. SPURLING: Why is it I feel
2 suddenly lazy and ineffective. Thank you very much.

3 I want to go back to the beginning now and
4 see if anyone has come in since we began. Is June
5 Reed here?

6 (No response)

7 MR. SPURLING: Perry Clay?

8 MR. CLAY: I apologize to everyone for
9 being late. I hate busting in the door at the last
10 minute. Coming through Lancaster County in the
11 height of the tourist season. I hope I can keep it
12 to five minutes.

13 MR. SPURLING: Take your time. We are
14 not exactly a capacity crowd here.

15 MR. CLAY: Glad to see so many of you
16 out on the day before Friday the 13th. Anybody
17 superstitious? Get all your business done today.
18 Be safe tomorrow.

19 I'm not superstitious by the way, but I'll
20 tell you my 16 year old is going to try to get her
21 driving permit tomorrow morning. I'll be up bright
22 and early in the morning and taking her. It's also
23 her birthday. I've got a big day tomorrow for the
24 family.

25 My name is Perry Clay and I'm a Housing

0057

1 Administrator for the Lancaster City Housing
2 Authority and I have served in that capacity for
3 nine years. Initially as a Section 8 case worker,
4 and then I had the opportunity to serve in public
5 housing for a number of years and now I manage a tax
6 credit property in the Borough of New Holland. So
7 that's my capacity.

8 And I was asked today to answer a question,
9 what Penn State Extension has meant to affordable
10 housing communities locally and state wide. My
11 experience with Penn State Extension and what's it's
12 done for affordable housing families, because I like
13 to talk in terms of people. I mean, for many years
14 housing authorities and developers and management
15 agents for housing communities, they speak in terms
16 of bricks and mortar. They speak in terms of
17 facilities and one thing we try to change with the
18 atmosphere of affordable housing communities, is
19 community. Community means people. It means not
20 only families, it means seniors, it means disabled.
21 Community means people. I mean not just the bricks
22 and mortars.

23 Many families that reside in low income or
24 moderate income communities, these people have
25 educational, social, and economic needs. Penn State

0058

1 Extension through advisory boards, workshops,
2 presentations, on-site education, on-site club
3 training and technical support. The Extension they
4 address these needs.

5 My experience with Section 8 housing and
6 public housing and tax credit affordable communities
7 in conjunction with Penn State Extension has been --
8 one primary issue has been nutrition.

9 Nutrition and food safety education, which
10 has helped these families increase healthy family
11 attitudes and provided a sanitary environment for
12 food preparation within the community. The impact
13 that Penn State Extension has with these families,
14 teaching nutrition, it just spreads so wide. When
15 you see a diet change for a child and you see grades
16 getting better because of nutrition, that really is
17 a big difference. When you have a decent
18 breakfast, when you have proper sanitation at home
19 for food preparation, it is so widespread throughout
20 the community.

21 I have seen children's grades change. I have
22 seen more athleticism through nutrition. This is
23 education that Penn State gives.

24 Also another area that the Extension is
25 instrumental in has been the financial and economic

0059

1 programs provided to these families; low and
2 moderate income such as budgeting and also credit
3 programs and retirement planning and a lot of these
4 families don't have a lot of money to begin with,
5 but as they grow and their economic status grows,
6 they are going to need to know about retirement
7 planning and things like that. That's a good service
8 that the Extension provides to the community.

9 The assistance is not only needed in the
10 affordable housing community, but across the state.
11 Another form that they provide is entrepreneur
12 training for startup businesses.

13 Penn State Extension provides that.

14 Businesses such as landscaping, painting,
15 things like that, and Extension provides that
16 technical support that people need to try to get
17 their start-up business.

18 Also childcare providers. Child care and
19 transportation are two of the biggest issues with
20 welfare to work, with single mother's becoming self-
21 sufficient. Child care and transportation. And a
22 lot of these single families, they think that child
23 care is a business. You have some families that
24 provide child care for other single mother's to get
25 to the business and the child care training that

0060

1 Penn State Extension has provided as far as
2 regulations and things like that, has enormous
3 impact.

4 One real important thing I want to bring out
5 is the child care issues that Penn State Extension
6 takes to employers to let employers know there are
7 some child care issues with these mother's getting
8 to work. I mean, they advocate for the families
9 with the businesses, which is really big.

10 Some businesses have on-site child care. The
11 high schools have on-site child care and this child
12 care provider training helps out a lot.

13 An example: Five years ago we started a yard
14 beautification program at a public housing site in
15 Lancaster City. The program ran from May to
16 September with the top three yards receiving gift
17 certificates. The seniors at the sites felt because
18 they have no yards, they have balconies, they felt
19 they couldn't participate. We purchased flower
20 boxes and we purchased flowers. The Extension sent a
21 master gardner on site to distribute the flowers and
22 the flower boxes and also to give tips on how to
23 maintain the flowers, and they not only gave tips
24 about the flower boxes, they went through the whole
25 site. 124 units, and they gave tips on how to

0061

1 produce your garden, which for years, for years some
2 of those tips have helped beautify this community.

3 Agriculture education in an urban setting is
4 very important. Very important. To teach the urban
5 youth or families about agriculture. The
6 environment.

7 This particular site had a river that ran
8 right in back of it and some of that education with
9 the urban and the agriculture is very essential.

10 We also have been running a bike-ride-along
11 program for six years. The extension one summer
12 provided a 4H summer college student to arrive on a
13 weekly basis. This worker was instrumental in
14 organizing an end of summer bike rodeo where the
15 winners received free mountain bikes. We couldn't
16 do that without Penn State Extension support.

17 The agency should continue to be a mainstay
18 in our community and we expect to see the
19 Extension's role grow in our community and we expect
20 to see the population it serves grow.

21 Thank you.

22 DR. SCHWAB: Thank you very much. I
23 think now we will take a little break. We are
24 actually real close to being on time. We are right
25 on time, so why don't we come back again around

0062

1 10:30 or thereabouts, and we will pick up where we
2 left off.

3 (RECESS)

4 MR. SPURLING: Okay. If we could
5 regather. A couple of reminders, if I can remind
6 everyone, make sure you sign in on the book laying
7 on the table just outside the room. It would be
8 very helpful to us. And if you do have -- I'm know
9 you are presenting copies of your testimony to the
10 reporter, and as long as Mary or our recorder gets
11 one, that is the main thing.

12 So we'll start the second session here, after
13 our break, and first on the list is Bob Anderson.

14 (No response)

15 MR. SPURLING: Ron Statler.

16 MR. STATLER: Good morning. I'm a
17 retired dairy farmer, and I recently just sold the
18 farm. Retired dairy farmer, I currently am a farm
19 laborer. I work forty hours a week, have weekends
20 off. I have been able to bring my golf game cap down
21 with all this extra time.

22 Back to the history: I started farming in
23 1972 with my father and another partner. Sold my
24 interest in the business, January first, 2001.
25 Since 1997, we have been putting one million dollars

0063

1 each year into the local Economy. Our success and
2 ability to retire from active management of the farm
3 at age 53, is due in part to the farming and
4 management skills learned in part through the
5 Cooperative Extension Service Education programs.

6 My reason for being here is two-fold. First
7 of all, the education gained and the things learned
8 from Extension are very important, were very
9 important to me and they are very important to my--
10 to the new owner of my business. I'm also his
11 banker and I want to make sure for the next 15 years
12 he makes a payment every month.

13 The second reason is I really enjoy watching
14 the next generation take hold and operate this
15 business. And if I may say so, better than I think
16 I did. So with Extension's help, he's going to be
17 here for a while. If not at the same location,
18 somewhere running a farm.

19 The things that I feel that Extension needs
20 to be concerned with, the areas they need to work
21 on, and I'll list them here. The first one is
22 business management. Historically the farming
23 community has been slow to accept modern business
24 practices. A farmer will not survive in today's
25 climate to handle large amounts of capital to

0064

1 operate a successful farming operation.

2 The introduction of dairy MAP has been a
3 great start, but emphasis should continue to be on
4 the modern practices to operate this type of
5 business. The challenge to get farmers to attend
6 business training is still present, but those who do
7 not attend these meetings are slowly disappearing
8 from the scene. The challenge is still there.

9 Also in the area of business management, is
10 choosing consultants. With the number of farms
11 there seems to be a large increase in the number of
12 consultants. They come with different abilities and
13 different agendas.

14 Extension could easily provide training that
15 could assist the farmer in the selection process of
16 a consultant.

17 Employee management. The increase in farm
18 size requires the use of nonfamily labor and in the
19 development of techniques that are needed for
20 successful employee relations. Use of
21 nontraditional labor, for example, part time and
22 semi-retired, and hispanics require a different
23 attitude and skill level.

24 One of the best Extension meetings that I
25 ever attended was a full day seminar by Ernie

0065

1 Irving's, dealing with employees; labor employees.

2 That was so nice and I used that so many times.

3 Environmental concerns: The need to protect
4 the environment and the pressure from environmental
5 groups is very important. That program from
6 Extension are balanced to enable the farmer to
7 succeed and to also protect the environment.

8 For example, this is one of my things. There
9 has been a big push for grazing of milk cows, and
10 my grandfather made the statement years ago, that
11 the best thing he ever did was quit pasturing his
12 cows and haul the feed to the milk cows.

13 I sometimes feel that in this situation,
14 yes, grazing works and in certain situations it does
15 well. But there are also soil types that don't take
16 grazing. There is management skills needed for
17 grazing that you would not need either way. So in
18 this area, I sometimes feel you know, it's a push
19 for grazing for environmental reasons.

20 There seems to be a push by Extension toward
21 environmentally-correct farming with little regard
22 to the profitability of practice. A profitable farm
23 is able to afford systems and procedures that will
24 protect the environment. In simple terms, if the
25 consumer were willing to pay five dollars for a

0066

1 gallon of milk in the store, farmers will produce
2 milk any way the environmentalists wish us to, but
3 they're also realistic.

4 The use of private industry, research and
5 education: Many agribusiness's do their own
6 research and offer educational programs to the
7 farming community. With limited funds, Extension
8 does not need to offer programs on growing corn or
9 feeding cows. Historically, private industry has
10 been ahead in many of the scientific research areas
11 mentioned.

12 The profit motive tends to increase and
13 improve research and development. There is also
14 concerns that private research information may be
15 biased, but an educated farmer can often balance
16 this concern. Extension's responsibility should be
17 giving the farmer the ability to evaluate research
18 results.

19 In closing, Extension has been an important
20 partner in our success in the past, and will
21 continue to help the American farmer in the future.
22 However, they need to keep their focus on the needs
23 of the farmers and not be controlled by
24 well-financed and strong special interest groups.

25 Thank you.

0067

1 DR. SCHWAB: Thank you very much.

2 During the break we had another member of our
3 staff come in attendance today. Stephan Tubene. He
4 is with CSREES for a short period of time as a
5 fellow from the 1890 Institution. His home is the
6 University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, and he is
7 working there on Small Farm Programs. So Stephan,
8 he is available for interaction with you on small
9 farm issues.

10 I guess the next up we have would Ken Hohe.

11 MR. HOHE: Good morning. My name is
12 Ken Hohe. I retired from the Pennsylvania
13 Department of Agriculture in October of 1998 as a
14 Food Sanitary Program Manager. I spent 42 years in
15 food service. Three in the military, one with
16 Allegheny County Health Department, and then 38 with
17 various state agencies, all in the food service
18 program, and the last one was agriculture, because
19 they got the food service program.

20 I'm here to talk about food safety education
21 for consumers. If Pennsylvania Food Safety
22 Alliance, which was a working group of members
23 representing government, industry, academia and
24 consumers from all sectors of the food system, met
25 periodically for over a year to identify roadblocks

0068

1 to food safety in Pennsylvania and to develop
2 recommendations for managing or eliminating these
3 roadblocks.

4 Five weak areas relative to food safety that
5 we identified were regulatory consistency, education
6 for consumers, education for professionals,
7 communications and surveillance.

8 Now, this Food Safety Alliance was managed by
9 someone from the Department of Food Safety at Penn
10 State University who received a grant from the
11 Department of Agriculture to do this work.

12 I would like to address the education to
13 consumers area. I feel it is imperative to have a
14 full course of food safety incorporated into the
15 curriculum of the 501 school districts in the
16 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

17 This course could cover the basics of food
18 safety. That is: Receiving, storage, preparation,
19 presentations in serving, proper handling of
20 leftovers, and basic sanitation.

21 Once the course is part of the curriculum,
22 the Extension Service personnel could develop a show
23 and tell program for presentations at elementary
24 school assembly programs.

25 Also there could be a hands-on demonstration

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1 of proper preparing, cooking and serving of food in
2 a safe and sanitary manner for high school students.
3 for volunteer food service personnel working
4 in food stands at fairs, carnivals, and sports
5 booster stands, either the State Extension Service
6 staff, the food regulatory agency, or members of
7 various food safety professional organizations,
8 could develop a cadre of trainers to present basic
9 food safety and sanitation training for these
10 volunteers.

11 Also I think it is imperative that food
12 safety advisories be publicized either through the
13 use of media, that is TV or radio public service
14 announcements and newspaper articles, or by the
15 creation and distribution of appropriate placards,
16 signs, posters, pamphlets on food safety.

17 Public relations personnel from food industry
18 corporations could be used to disseminate this food
19 safety information.

20 Some recent involvements of the Penn State
21 Extension staff in Cumberland and Dauphin Counties,
22 show their participation in the Pennsylvania
23 Department of Agriculture in the Farm City Day.
24 This is an event where approximately six thousand
25 elementary school children from Central Pennsylvania

0070

1 are brought to the Pennsylvania Farm Show complex in
2 Harrisburg to view exhibits and participate in
3 hands-on displays of agriculture practices and to
4 garner information on many useful vocations,
5 including food safety.

6 Also, State Extension staff members are
7 involved with the presentation of Serve Safe Food
8 Safety Training. This is one of several training
9 programs approved by the Pennsylvania Department of
10 Agriculture for the recently enacted Food Employee
11 Certification Act. This is for food managers in
12 licensed food service establishments in
13 Pennsylvania.

14 This fifteen hour course and final exam is
15 required by the Act for managers to be certified.

16 Another training session that is presented by
17 Extension staff is a two and a half hour course for
18 food service workers in stands at fairs, carnivals,
19 sport booster stands, school May Day celebrations,
20 church fundraisers and fraternal service
21 organizations. I know this program works, because I
22 have taught several of these courses for the Penn
23 State Extension office in Dauphin County.

24 Also the Extension office in Cumberland
25 County developed a Food Safety Committee and we call

0071

1 ourselves partners in food safety and we have come
2 up with a visual display and some handout material
3 using a character named Tommy Thermometer and we
4 printed up four different food safety information
5 cards with hints on how to cook foods properly, how
6 to prepare foods properly; how to store foods
7 properly. So we do get involved and I think it is
8 very important that we continue this, especially
9 starting with the children.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MR. SPURLING: Bob Anderson didn't
12 suddenly show?

13 Next is Dennis Bross.

14 MR. BROSS: Good morning. I'm here to
15 speak on a need for Economic decision- making
16 skills. I'm going to start by sharing a personal
17 experience in the background information.

18 The dairy farmer sold about a hundred head of
19 cattle on the farm. Been farming on my own for
20 approximately 10 years in worn out, inefficient
21 facilities. Because integration in the world
22 markets, our business has become very competitive.
23 We need greater efficiencies and I need to update my
24 dairy.

25 We decided this year it was time to make a

0072

1 move. I was very unsure of myself and requested
2 recommendations from our local Extension agent.
3 They were helpful with building design, where to put
4 the building, basic set-up. They suggested that we
5 do a feasibility study as to whether we can afford
6 the building or not. Good advice.

7 We got our facts and figures together for our
8 present operation. It was a challenge, but one that we
9 could do.

10 In addition, we needed projections for the
11 new set up. It's quite expensive and a little
12 scary too. The wife and I tried to work on it, but
13 we became a little overwhelmed. I spoke with my
14 local agent again and he offered a program called
15 FINPACK. It's a financial planning package.

16 We took him up on the offer and it's been a
17 couple weeks. The local agent came out and we
18 offered him what we figured we could. It was a five
19 hour program and very detailed and it doesn't lie.
20 We found out we couldn't afford to put the building
21 up, and I was surprised. I did everything I could to
22 make it efficient and cheap, but useful. We would
23 have lost eighty thousand each year of operation.
24 We could not see it without the program.

25 Now this is a bit of a sales pitch to

0073

1 continue this program, obviously. Where I'm
2 coming from is I did say within a couple of weeks,
3 but it was 8 to 10 weeks we were searching to find
4 private money, and even through the agency, so we were
5 able to find help.

6 I intend to use the program again with the
7 different options, because I would really like to
8 farm.

9 I don't have too much more to say, but
10 without that I could have gone bankrupt. I could
11 have lost the farm to the bank. Our farm has high
12 property value for building. If the bank had
13 thought that and I had made the mistake, I would
14 have been left with a T-shirt on my back, if that.

15 I thank you SCA for helping me, and this
16 program has value. I'm not quite certain that it's
17 strictly for dairy, but as near as I can tell, that
18 can be used for any kind of agriculture business.

19 Now, you know, there's many programs that the
20 agency offers. Well, I can read my farm right. They
21 showed me how to produce milk and crops, how to take
22 care of the animal. They tell us how to deal with
23 employees. I never learned anything like this. I
24 did try to find in the private sector and the last
25 minute after our local agent was scheduled within

0074

1 two days, we finally got a return call, with the
2 offer that it was \$1,500 cost sharing.
3 Just starting. I didn't ask what the total cost
4 was.

5 It's really all I have to say. I thank you
6 for listening. And any questions I should be around
7 for a little while.

8 DR. SCHWAB: My parents and my brother
9 are going through a similar decision right now,
10 whether trying to decide to upgrade or renovate or
11 what to do, so it really hits home for me what you
12 just said.

13 We are up to Mr. Graeme Goodsir.

14 MR. GOODSIR: Good morning everybody.

15 I'm here to speak mainly about food safety,
16 which I note has been quite prominent in what we
17 have heard so far.

18 I'll give a little more background about
19 myself then I put in the recorded paper. I've been
20 44 years in the livestock and meat industries,
21 starting in Australia, I'm now a US citizen, having
22 lived here 29 years, and I've been involved mostly
23 in International meat trade, but connected with
24 marketing and distribution throughout North America,
25 and I belong to a number of different agriculture,

0075

1 mainly livestock organizations in that time.

2 I was an Inaugural Director on the Beef
3 Connection Board when it started in the 1980's and
4 for about eight years I was on the Board of
5 Governors of the Livestock Industry Institute in
6 Kansas City. And also on the Committee of the
7 National Livestock and Meat Board before it went out
8 of existence in the early '90's.

9 I've had a lot of contact with producers and
10 have observed a lot of the Extension work that has
11 been done not only in this state, but in other
12 states, particularly in Iowa, and California and
13 Kansas, and I'm an admirer of the good quality and
14 dedication that has gone into that, and the success
15 of it.

16 When I first came to this country, Extension
17 agents were the heart and soul of the agricultural
18 community and I would like to think that that could
19 continue.

20 I'm going to go through some points here, but
21 before I do, I just picked up on something I heard
22 from the first and the fourth speakers. The first
23 speaker I think made a very good case for being
24 objective and independent in the advice and the work
25 that's done by agents, and I certainly have to

1 emphasize that with food safety there is a lot of
2 things we don't like to face and we are already an
3 adversarial industry, particularly with livestock,
4 and we don't always want to face the facts, and in
5 particular the people that we don't seem to like are
6 the consumer advocates.

7 I've sat in many food safety meetings in
8 Washington and heard and witnessed the animosity of
9 the difference, and have been very impressed on a
10 few rare occasions of the great homework that they
11 did together and done their homework and sorted out
12 differences and come to at least a meeting of minds
13 and recognized progress, and when I heard other
14 speakers this morning talk on food progress, I'm
15 feeling encouraged that at least in this State,
16 there is some coordination developing, but it does
17 need an objective and independent approach, and
18 recognized effects.

19 I also heard this morning for the first time,
20 and I made a mistake in my little bit of paper here
21 by using a wrong word. The word "service" has
22 apparently been eliminated from the definition of
23 Extension agents. That it is more just an education
24 role. Now defined as a different role, and I stand
25 corrected if that isn't right, but I would like to

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1 see service put back into the curriculum of this
2 activity because for awhile in the 90's I was a
3 member of the American Society of Agricultural
4 Consultants, and while I wasn't really a part of the
5 real agriculture work that they did, which was
6 largely in crops, and in international
7 collaboration, I was perfectly conscious that they
8 saw themselves at times competing against what I
9 thought was a very strong service from the Extension
10 agents. But some of the wiser ones amongst them
11 looked to cooperate with the Extension agents, which
12 was a much sounder approach, but it's all part of a
13 service, which I think the farm community looks for
14 and I would like to see that word emphasized again
15 and at least restored or maintained.

16 Having said all those things, I will now go
17 into my paper.

18 I'm focusing on the health risk associated
19 with livestock and meat products, and what I see is
20 a need for producers and everyone else down the
21 market chain to consumers, and we heard this
22 mentioned in this coordination counsel in this
23 state, to be kept well-informed of trends and events
24 and well-advised in quick and effective manner if
25 special problems arise at any time.

1 Now, those special problems in this country,
2 which are close at hand for livestock, in my mind
3 focus very keenly on the presence of E coli 0157:H7 in
4 the food supply. Particularly in the beef sector.
5 And I do write for some industry magazines.

6 In the last thirteen years I've had my own
7 consulting and marketing business, and I write more
8 and more about this E coli problem.

9 One of the things we don't want to face, but
10 which I'm hearing at times a little more, is that we
11 probably got this very, very lethal pathogen, E coli
12 0157:H7 in most feed lots in this country today, and to
13 the lesser extent on smaller farms.

14 It's a fact that people don't want to face.
15 It has inhibited research on farms because naturally
16 people don't want to know it's there in case it
17 effects their livelihood. So it's a hidden hazard
18 in many ways, but when it gets down to being
19 consumed by somebody who dies, such as we saw start
20 in '90, '93, with the Jack in the Box hamburger
21 deaths in California and Washington state, it's just
22 a terrible threat and we have had lots and lots of
23 these incidents and outbreaks since then. Not all
24 fatal, thank goodness, but even when I was here in
25 this very building last year for the annual

0079

1 convention of the American Association of Meat
2 Processors headquartered near here, one of the
3 biggest and best meat packers in this country,
4 MOPACK near Philadelphia, had two huge recalls of
5 ground beef right at this time during the
6 convention, and I think it shook that family from
7 their foundations. They're selling the business
8 now, but they are the number nine meat packer in the
9 country and they will now be part of Smithfield in
10 the future, but I'm sure that set them back because
11 there are terrible liabilities for a food company.

12 When they have recalls, and I had to handle
13 recalls of meat products myself back in the '80's,
14 when I worked for a meat packing company, and I'm
15 sure it took at least five years off my life. The
16 mental stress and the sheer fear of all that goes
17 with that and the legal liability is only a small
18 part of what happens when you got to bring back
19 forty product that might have done a lot of harm to
20 people.

21 In this case nobody got sick, but dealing
22 with trimmers, dealing with the USDA, they are very
23 independent, very strict; dealing with the
24 media, dealing with lawyers, dealing with customers,
25 the suppliers, the people whose brand was at risk,

0080

1 these are things that just about drive you crazy,
2 but the real problem starts back at the farm and I'm
3 getting back to the E coli 0157:H7.

4 Up to now, most of the interventions we tried
5 to use in the industry are controlled at the packing
6 plants. It's arguably, logically, that's where all
7 of the animals funnel in. This is the best place to
8 try and control it.

9 We're even getting away from USDA standards
10 of doing this. What's happening today, when we see
11 the introduction of high pressure steam and
12 sterilization, it's not a USDA regulation, it's
13 being imposed by McDonalds and Burger King, who say
14 if you want to sell us your beef for hamburgers,,
15 you better go an extra step and take more
16 precautions to kill this, and then those same people
17 do their own precautions and cook the hamburger to
18 one hundred and sixty degrees fahrenheit or higher,
19 to be sure they kill anything that's there.

20 The USDA goes further with the public and
21 tells all of us to use thermometers and make sure we
22 use that same measurement of at least a hundred and
23 sixty degrees fahrenheit. But the reverse side of
24 that message is that if you don't use a thermometer,
25 this stuff could kill you.

0081

1 Now, that's the very big risk that is being
2 faced by everybody in the beef industry, and it's
3 coming back right to the farm level, and the feed
4 lot level, and there is a lot of research that is
5 going on that will help us overcome it but it will
6 need cooperation and if we do have more outbreaks of
7 this serious kind, it could be calamitous and require
8 very, very quick action, which is where farm
9 Extension agents always come into the picture.

10 They are the first line of defense; there are
11 farmers who need help and that's how I see it in the
12 future and I am a strong supporter of all that they
13 do.

14 Just getting back to my paper, I'm also
15 conscious of the good work that you have done in
16 this state, trying to make both farmers and the
17 community at large aware of the threats from abroad
18 from the foot and mouth disease, and mad cow
19 disease, known as FMD, and BSE respectively.

20 I do work for the British Meat Industry, just
21 in the sense of comparing notes with other
22 organizations here in this country, and I'm aware of
23 all of the terrible experiences they've had in the
24 last year and not just now, they have had mad cow
25 disease back in the mid '90's when the first

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1 outbreaks occurred and they had to kill many, many
2 thousands of cattle then to overcome it.

3 Right now, the casualty list for British
4 farmers; these are just the animals just destroyed
5 to stop the spread of hoof and mouth, has been about
6 three point five million head of animals and this is
7 just absolutely soul destroying for farmers whose
8 whole life work at times has just gone up in smoke
9 literally from these piles of carcasses that get
10 burned.

11 The biggest casualty has been sheep that
12 have got this foot and mouth. 2.8 million
13 have been destroyed. A hundred and twenty-eight
14 thousand pigs to date and five hundred and forty-six
15 thousand cattle.

16 Now we're doing everything we can to advocate
17 safeguards to stop those two diseases from coming
18 into this Country but it's not enough, because you
19 can come into a number of airports and not be
20 interrogated here.

21 I've just been in Honolulu; the industry
22 there is very concerned that they haven't seen any
23 evidence of visitors being interrogated enough. You
24 can carry this. And once it's here, it will be
25 extremely hard to control.

0083

1 President Bush has increased USDA's budget
2 for this vigilance. We have yet to see how
3 effective this could be, but I think every effort
4 should be made throughout the US Department of
5 Agriculture, but particularly at the Extension agent
6 level to make everybody aware of this threat and to
7 try to bring up the community attitudes to
8 protecting everyone, and if it ever happens that we
9 should have an outbreak, which I hope won't happen,
10 we certainly will see Extension agents in the front
11 line of defense at the deal and this is the kind of
12 emergency that you can't prepare for after the
13 event. It's got to be in place before anything like
14 that can happen.

15 I think I can finish there. There are other
16 aspects of food safety, which are looming, and could
17 be extremely challenging.

18 One of the particular ones is the use of
19 antibiotics in animal feed. You heard I'm sure that
20 the American Medical Association has come out
21 opposing the use of antibiotics, all because we are
22 seeing a growth of resistance in both animals and
23 humans to the effectiveness of antibiotics by
24 overuse, and I have sat in meetings, and I sit in
25 many of them for the British people for these food

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1 safety meetings in Washington. One that has
2 impacted me the most, was last January, the Food and
3 Drug Administration, started the first of a series
4 of public meetings on benchmarks for this antibiotic
5 use, and the industry is opposing regulation. They
6 want to use self-regulation, but I for one am very
7 scared that this is an abuse that could be extremely
8 costly to the human race if we do lose the benefit
9 of antibiotics and their medical treatments. And
10 when that protection of antibiotics is taken away
11 from animal feed, which I think will happen, a lot
12 of farmers are going to be exposed to risks that
13 obviously weren't covered before and again I see
14 Extension agents on the front line to come to help
15 anyone in the livestock field.

16 So in summary of all my remarks, I wish well
17 for all of you in this field of Extension Agency
18 work. I said in the beginning I admired it since I
19 came to this country. I use to say that it's the
20 heart and soul of the industry and I believe it
21 should keep that status, particularly in placing the
22 hazards of food safety that I believe are hidden.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. SPURLING: Next on our list is Mr.
25 Lloyd Casey.

0085

1 MR. CASEY: Good morning. I just want
2 one clarification, as I was growing up, I learned
3 about Hoof and Mouth Disease that had to do with
4 cattle and sheep, and Foot and Mouth Disease is
5 something I got when I said something I shouldn't
6 have. So I was just wondering what exactly that is.

7 My name is Lloyd Casey and I'm here to
8 represent the northeastern area of the USDA Forest
9 Service. We are in the state and private section of
10 the Forest Service and cover 20 states in the
11 northeastern part of the country. I call that the
12 land between the end. That is Maine, Minnesota,
13 Missouri, back to Maryland.

14 And we work with the state agencies to assist
15 in the stewardship of nonindustrial private forest
16 lands and to serve the users of the urban forest.

17 The northeast area provides funding,
18 training, and regional coordination for landowner
19 assistance through the state forest service and
20 other partners with similar forestry goals.

21 One of the principal partners in this mission
22 of forest stewardship is the Cooperative Extension
23 Service and I would like to give you some examples
24 of these partnership efforts.

25 The Forest Service, the State Forestry

1 agents, and the Extension foresters for the 20 state
2 area meet once a year in June. This meeting
3 provides a forum for discussion of joint projects,
4 funding opportunities, and training on cutting-edge
5 technologies. This annual meeting has been
6 convening annually since 1952. I wasn't at the first
7 one, but I have been at every one since about 1978.

8 Several state forestry agencies have utilized
9 the Forest Service funds for local Extension
10 forestry activities.

11 Cooperative Extension has a legislative
12 position on the State Forest Stewardship
13 coordinating committee within each state. This
14 committee provides guidance and advice to the state
15 forester on the administration of the Forester
16 Stewardship Program.

17 In the past, the area has funded a forestry
18 Extension Coordinator for 20 states. What I'm
19 saying is the Forest Service feels so committed to
20 Extension that we pay the salary of an Extension
21 forester to coordinate those activities in the 20
22 state area.

23 This person coordinates Extension activities,
24 such as developing an area-wide publication,
25 Extension publication; providing sources of funding

1 for special projects, such as liaison of the forest
2 service and acts as a technical resource for the
3 State Extension foresters. This also is happening
4 on a continuing basis in the southern part of the
5 United States.

6 The State Forestry agencies rely on the local
7 Extension foresters for outreach activities to
8 forest owners for assistance with state wide forest
9 resource planning, for the development and
10 publications of technical forestry bulletins, and
11 education of the future decision-makers of
12 our nation, are also very important.

13 The 4H programs provide technical training,
14 national contests that disseminate the principles of
15 conservation and stewardship of our natural
16 resources. Unfortunately, federal funding for these
17 activities have been generally limited. The RREA
18 funds on the national level have been about 3.2
19 million dollars for the past several years.

20 When you think about the scope of the
21 Extension Forestry job, sixty-four thousand dollars
22 per state is a token amount for the work that needs
23 to be done.

24 As a result of this inadequate funding, we
25 have at least three states in that 20 state area

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1 that don't even have an Extension forester, and one
2 of those states is our most heavily forested states
3 in the United States.

4 We had states in which the Extension
5 foresters are directed away from Extension
6 activities to teach college courses. In some
7 states, the RREA funds are not even used for
8 forestry Extension.

9 Consider the following facts: We have
10 approximately five million forest owners in the
11 northeastern United States, that own over a hundred
12 and thirteen million acres of forest land. Forest
13 near cities are being cleared for development at an
14 astonishing rate. Only twenty-five percent of the
15 forest owners who harvest timber in any given year,
16 use any kind of professional forester to assist in
17 that harvest.

18 Water quality in high priority watersheds has
19 diminished and reforestation and forest buffer
20 establishments are a solution to that water quality.

21 Invasive species are taking over our forests,
22 causing major deterrents for natural regeneration.
23 Overpopulation of deer has decreased the natural
24 biodiversity of our forests. Here in Pennsylvania
25 we call them mountain maggots.

1 Wood products are energy efficient when
2 compared to those of steel, concrete and plastics.
3 Forests are the principal attraction for the
4 recreational activities in our area. Tree
5 sequestered carbon can help to reduce the carbon in
6 the air that contributes to global warming. And not
7 one of us has gone one day in our lifetime without
8 using a forest product. In fact, I have a thousand
9 dollars in my pocket to give to anyone that can
10 prove to me that that isn't so.

11 So after considering these facts, isn't it
12 apparent that Cooperative Forestry Extension Service
13 should be provided with the means with which it can
14 provide the necessary service for improving the
15 quality of life for all Americans.

16 I'm going to switch hats for a minute and
17 speak to you as a Vice President of the Pennsylvania
18 Forestry Association, which is an organization of
19 12,000 people in Pennsylvania and we represent on
20 our Board -- it's a triad Board, that consists of
21 eighteen people; a third of them are from the public
22 sector; a third of them are private citizens and a
23 third of them are from government. And this
24 organization has been in existence since 1889 and in
25 Pennsylvania, we have five hundred thousand forest

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1 owners. Compare that to the number of farmers you
2 have, and nationwide, I know we have 10 million
3 nonindustrial private owners, and we have five
4 million farmers.

5 It's probably the most under-represented
6 population as far as USDA programs are concerned. I
7 know that probably eighty-five to ninety-five
8 percent of the farmers receive government assistance
9 and I know probably only twenty-five percent of the
10 nonindustrial private owners receive government
11 assistance.

12 So we in the Pennsylvania Forestry
13 Association are very appreciative of the services of
14 the Extension foresters to assist us in getting our
15 message to the forest advocates in Pennsylvania.

16 Just to give you a small example of what
17 happened, we are embarking on trying to get
18 foresters licensed in Pennsylvania, and we have been
19 collecting some anecdotal information as to what is
20 happening and one of the first things that came to
21 our attention was that a land owner from
22 New Jersey, owned two hundred acres up near St.
23 Mary's, Pennsylvania, and he got a letter in the
24 mail from a saw mill and they said we have been
25 through your woods and we'd like to take out all the

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1 trees that are ready and we'll pay you 20 thousand
2 dollars for that woods. And, gee the guy said I
3 owned that for 20 years and I've never gotten a
4 penny out of that, and I pay taxes; that sounds like
5 a good deal.

6 So he signs the contract and sent it back.
7 In the very next week, another mill wrote in and
8 said we'll give you \$30,000. He said now wait a
9 minute, how can it go up in that amount of time.

10 If that fellow had been a farmer, he would
11 have gone from one elevator to the other, until he
12 would have gotten the highest price. But the
13 farmers don't do that with their woods. So he got
14 smart and he decided that he was going to contact
15 the Extension service and he found out where he
16 could get a consultant forester to go in and look at
17 that. The Consultant went in and said well, if you
18 want to cut everything down that's ready to come
19 down right now, five hundred thousand dollars. Now,
20 on the other hand, if you want to manage it and take
21 out what's really ready, within 10 years, you'll
22 make six hundred thousand.

23 This is the problem that we have and with the
24 limited funding for Cooperative Extension, we're
25 fighting that twenty-five percent.

0092

1 DR. SCHWAB: Thank you.

2 If anybody has any questions of the value of
3 Extension Programs outside of Washington, we
4 certainly heard about that today. We appreciate all
5 of the input.

6 We made our way down the list. We
7 would like to see if June Reed has appeared or Bob
8 Anderson. Have those folks appeared?

9 (No response)

10 DR. SCHWAB: If not, we would like to
11 open the floor to anybody who is in the audience who
12 is not on the pre-registered list or anybody who
13 would like to make additional statements, just come
14 on up to the microphone.

15 I see there are a couple of folks that have
16 joined us and if you would like to come up and
17 identify yourself and make your statement.

18 MR. MCGOWAN: Good morning, my name is
19 Rich McGowan. I'm with an environmental firm out of
20 Scranton, Pennsylvania. The name of the firm is
21 EcoScientific Solutions. We do a myriad of things.
22 One particularly would be forestry management.

23 I would like to talk today about hemlock
24 adelgid. I'm sure Mr. Casey is familiar with that;
25 I'm not sure if anyone else here is familiar with

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1 that. Let me give you a brief rundown of what
2 hemlock adelgid is.

3 It's a small aphid like insect that feeds
4 solely on hemlock species. It was introduced from
5 Japan to America in the early 1920's. Hemlock
6 adelgid feeds on hemlocks through inserting sucking
7 mouthparts directly into the branch. The insects
8 strip away food from food storage cells within the
9 stem tissue.

10 Hemlock adelgid secretes toxic saliva while
11 feeding, preventing nutrients and water throughout
12 the tree, and eventually killing the tree.

13 Immediate effects on the hemlock adelgid
14 throughout the north United States you can see the
15 foliage eventually turn from dark green to gray and
16 eventually fall off the tree. Limiting and stopping
17 growth kills the hemlock.

18 The spread of the hemlock adelgid is spread
through

19 several factors: Environmentally as well as
20 biologically. Weather, birds, mammals disperse
21 hemlock woolly adelgid. It spreads at a rate of 25
22 miles per year.

23 They originated from the Virginia area and
24 moved up the northeast; in particular through
25 Hurricane Gloria back in the '80s.

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1 It's a wide-spread problem. It ranges as far
2 north as Massachusetts and Connecticut and as far
3 west as Harrisburg and West Virginia.

4 The Pennsylvania state tree is the hemlock, and
5 has infestations in 35 confirmed counties.

6 I want to quickly address the real losses
7 environmentally, socially and economically of the
8 hemlock forest in the northeast.

9 Environmentally: Rural ecology. Game birds
10 and other animals such as deer. Habitat loss, small
11 and large mammals, birds, and insects, and related
12 species, in particular the moth. The list goes on
13 and on. You can relate the hemlocks where they are
14 found geographically in watersheds, which then once
15 we loose the hemlock trees, it will effect water
16 quality.

17 Erosion. We will lose the habitat for trout
18 and other aquatic habitats and the list goes on and
19 on.

20 This will probably be the greatest species
21 loss since the American Chestnut.

22 There's other associated environmental
23 effects. Large stands of hemlocks left up pose a
24 fire danger and the reforestation of a hemlock stand
25 is majorly invasive to exotic plants that support

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1 little habitat.

2 I am from the Pocono area, so I grew up with
3 the social and economical effects of the loss of the
4 hemlock and I'll briefly go down that list.

5 The hemlock, like I said, is the keystone
6 species for the region. It supports skiing,
7 fishing, lakes, hunting, hiking, camping. It
8 supports a nursery industry and it majorly supports
9 the tourist industry, again great skiing and the
10 natural outdoors of the Poconos.

11 My company -- I should say our company, has
12 been in contact with the US Forestry Service and US
13 Department of Agriculture; in particular with the
14 New Jersey Department of Agriculture out of Trenton,
15 New Jersey. Their efforts combined with the US
16 Department of Agriculture in Connecticut have found
17 that the most effective control is the small
18 biological control beetle called ES P.scymnus. The
19 Department of Agriculture has been mass producing
20 this beetle for the past few years and it has been proven
21 effective. The US Forestry Service have been mass
22 producing this beetle for the past few years and I
23 think to date has four hundred thousand beetles.
24 The US Forestry Service has released these beetles
25 throughout I would say seven states in that region

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1 all throughout the northeast and somewhat in North
2 Carolina.

3 Research has been done. It's a new
4 biological control on the market. Research is still
5 being done. The effectiveness is great though, but
6 we need more beetles out there to control this
7 problem and prevent the loss of the hemlock
8 throughout the northeast.

9 Let's not stand by and watch the eradication
10 of another tree species and all related species,
11 whether it be biological, mammals and insects like
12 the American Chestnut.

13 I urge USDA to meet with perhaps maybe a
14 little more funding for research and maybe
15 technology and mass production of the beetles to
16 help stop this pest from eradicating other species
17 from the northeast.

18 And I'll be around afterwards to take
19 questions if you would like to talk to me.

20 Thank you.

21 DR. SCHWAB: Thank you.

22 Anyone else to join us here to make a
23 statement? Anyone who has been missed or would like
24 to come back for a second go-around or anything like
25 that.

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1 (No response)

2 DR. SCHWAB: We are going to be here
3 until noon. We promised people to be here until
4 noon to take comments. How many folks are
5 interested in participating in the afternoon
6 session? We'll have an abbreviated session.

7 Why don't we plan to be back here at one
8 o'clock and we will probably have one or two at most
9 small break-out sessions and run that until 2:00,
10 2:15 or so, and plan to wrap up between 2:30 and
11 3:00, if that suits other people. Otherwise we are
12 going to be here until noon in case more people come
13 to provide testimony. Otherwise we'll see you at
14 one o'clock for those of you who want to participate
15 in the break-out session.

16 Again, let me just say before we break, how
17 much I appreciate you coming. I know Jim as well
18 as all of our staff appreciate the time that you
19 have all taken to come and give very good testimony.
20 I know I have heard several examples of very
21 effective programs that we can use as we interact
22 with the Congress and with other agencies in the
23 Department of Agriculture throughout the coming year
24 as we develop the new Farm Bill, as we develop new
25 budget proposals and things like that. It's really

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1 been very, very useful and like I said, if people
2 want to question the value of Cooperative Extension,
3 you can just come to Lancaster County to ask them.

4 Thank you.

5 (RECESS FOR BREAK-OUT SESSIONS)

6

7 (AFTERNOON SESSION 2:45 p.m.)

8

9 DR. SCHWAB: This is the report from
10 the break-out session.

11 The group was mainly Extension experts, but
12 the conclusions I think are generalized to the whole
13 range of research Extension, education activities of
14 the agency.

15 Basically we heard three broad types of
16 challenges.

17 First of all, we had regional challenges; we
18 heard about the challenges between different
19 counties working on a regional basis within the
20 State and secondly, states working within a region.
21 And heard about the challenges related to the
22 positive and negative aspects of sharing resources
23 and managing programs in an efficient manner, over
24 broader geographical distances.

25 We heard about the need to communicate

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1 effectively with the local and state governments to
2 ensure that they understand that there are benefits
3 to working across regions and across regions within
4 the country.

5 A couple of areas where there are specific
6 efficiencies to be gained is in the area of
7 publications. Publication of items over the web,
8 and regional publications that can be useful to
9 consumers and stakeholders in several states at
10 once.

11 The second broad area of challenges was
12 audience challenge or challenges related to
13 audience.

14 It was pointed out that Extension agents can
15 not be so specific that they have a very small
16 customer base. We need Extension agents that are
17 generalists in a sense that can cover a range of
18 topics for customers, and one example of that that
19 was put out was you may not need a agronomist, and a
20 horticulturist, and a turf management specialist,
21 but you could have one person who could direct the
22 customers to resources in all of those areas as
23 they're related to plant sciences.

24 Second, we need to target several levels of
25 the audience. We need basic educational modules; we

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1 need intermediate educational modules and advanced
2 educational modules. Because if you only have basic
3 levels, you suddenly lose your advanced customers
4 who will turn to other information-delivery
5 organizations for their information.

6 So we need to cover the range of experienced
7 levels in agriculture. And also we need to pay
8 specific attention to the general population as the
9 nation becomes more urban and more diverse with new
10 immigration populations that are moving into rural
11 areas. So we need to broaden our audience in order
12 to stay relevant.

13 Finally, there was a long discussion about
14 budgetary and financial challenges. We heard very
15 clearly that the Formula Funds are critical to
16 maintaining a basic level of program at the local
17 level and that the stagnation of Federal Formula
18 Funds has led to actual reductions of staff at local
19 county Extension levels, so we need to reiterate the
20 importance of those basic funds.

21 We also need to establish greater linkages
22 with other federal science and educational agencies
23 in order to leverage the resources of those agencies
24 to the needs of agriculture and rural development
25 issues.

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1 And finally there was a feeling that
2 Extension is doing its job. It should be linking
3 research and educational activities directly to the
4 stake holder, producer community, but also it should
5 be feeding up priorities back through the system, so
6 that it can help set the research agenda for rural
7 areas, for the country at large.

8 So there is a real integration both forward
9 and backward of the priorities that the research
10 education and Extension system needs to be
11 addressing.

12 Thank you all very much for your input. It's
13 been very important and we'll look forward to
14 talking with you in the future.

15 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at 3:50 p.m.)

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2 STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA)

COUNTY OF LANCASTER)

3

4 I, Pamela J. Dogger, RPR and Notary Public for
the State of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify:

5 That the witness named in the deposition, prior
to being examined, was by me first duly sworn;

6 That said deposition was taken before me at the
time and place therein set forth and was taken down
by me in shorthand and thereafter transcribed into
7 typewriting under my direction and supervision;

8 That said deposition is a true record of the
testimony given by the witness and of all objections
made at the time of the examination

9 I further certify that I am neither counsel for
nor related to any party to said action, nor in
10 anyway interested in the outcome thereof.

11

12

Pamela J. Dogger, RPR

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